Management which includes biological control Several predator parasites and pathogens have been identified by our research institutes for use in different crops against specific pests.

Dangers of Pesticides

875. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the special issue of moving Technology brought out by CAPART (April 1990) highlighting the dangers and safe alternatives to pesticides; and

(b) whether Government propose to initiate pragmatic policies and programmes towards sustainable agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes ,Sir.

(b) Government have already initiated policies for implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as part of sustainable agriculture. The IPM approach aims at pest surveillence, need based use of pesticides, and use of cultural, agronomic mechanical and biological control methods in pest management.

Organic Farming

876. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to many success stories of organic farming in the country such as that reported in 'Sunday Mail' 5-11 May, 1991;

(b) whether Government have compiled a list of all organic farming units in the country, private, cooperatives, non-Government organisations and Government units, if any; and

(c) whether any analysis or evaluation has been made of this system which is catching up all over the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) There have been occasional reports about the success of organic farming system. However, there are no identified organic farming units in Government's knowledge. In view of this, the question of carrying out separate analysis/ evaluation does not arise.

While organic farming has its positive side, the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and the use of modern farming techniques, are essential for achieving high levels of yield. However, integrated nutrient supply which combines the use of chemicals and orgainc fertilisers coupled with suitable package of practices, ensures the best results and is encouraged by Government.

News-item under caption "Uncertainty over Metro stretch"

877. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Statesman, New Delhi, dated the 9th July, 1991, under the caption "Uncertainty over Metro stretch";

(b) whether it is a fact that lack of funds has been prime reason for unresolving the difference between the Metro and its various contractors;

(c) whether Government without getting the Calcutta Metro Railways completed are investing huge funds elsewhere in the country in similar projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Out of a total outlay of Rs. 165 crores made available in 1991-92 by Planning Commission for metropolitan transport project, Rs. 120 crores have been allotted to Calcutta Metro.